

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GERMAN REFORMED SYNOD

OF

PENNSYLVANIA & ADJACENT STATES,

HELD AT

REAMSTOWN, LANCASTER COUNTY, SEPTEMBER 4th
5th & 6th, 1831.

Coloss. 3. 11. "All and in All Christ."

READING,

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1831.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GERMAN REFORMED SYNOD &c.

IN accordance with a resolution of Synod of last year, held in Philadelphia, the members of the same convened in Reamstown, Lancaster county, on the fourth of September, 1831. Saturday evening preceeding, Revd. Dubs preached from Matth. 5. 3. Sabbath morning at half past 9 o'clock the Revd. President of Synod delivered an appropriate discourse from 1 Cor. 4. 1, 2. At 1 o'clock in the afternoon, Revd. Smidmer discoursed in the English language from 2 Cor. 5. 20. At 3 o'clock, service again commenced in which Revd. F. E. Von der Sloot entertained the congregation with a sermon from the tenth chapter of Leviticus and the latter part of the third verse. In the evening Revd. Bibighaus officiated from Acts 26. 18.

Monday morning at 9 o'clock, the brethren, ministers and elders, from the different congregations in Pennsylvania and adjacent states, forming this Synod, met in the church, to transact whatever business might occur. All members present united with the President of Synod, in singing and praying, to implore the assistance of the Lord, and so the first session was opened.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Clergy :

Revd. F. L. Herman,
 — H. Bibighaus,
 — C. G. Herrman,
 — J. S. Dubs,
 — T. H. Leinbach,
 — A. L. Herman,
 — J. C. Guldin,
 — S. Seibert,
 — R. T. Herman,
 — C. W. Shults,
 — F. E. Von der Slood,
 — F. W. Von der Slood,
 — C. W. Wack,
 — J. S. Ebaugh,

Candidates present :

Revd. William Smidmer,
 — A. Schæfer,
 — L. C. B. Herman,

Applicants :

Revd. F. L. Daubert,
 — H. Miller,

Elders :

Mr. William Hottenstein,
 — H. Burkholder, Esq.
 — George Coleman,
 — Jacob Liebig,
 — George Voigt,

Elders :

Mr. Daniel Hartman,
 — John Dautrich,
 — — Klein,
 — — Ems,
 — C. Litter,
 — Jacob Seibert,
 — Jacob Schwobe,
 — George Miller,
 — Jacob Haberstick,
 — John Wilson, Esq.,
 — Jeremiah Haller,
 — Jacob Spatz,
 — Daniel Berlet,
 — Jacob Blaus,
 — Abraham Wagner,

Ministers absent :

Revd. Abraham Berky,
 — J. Steely,*
 — G. Mills,
 — R. Fisher,
 — D. Tobias,†
 — J. Althouse,

Candidates absent :

Revd. J. T. Clark,
 — G. Eppert,
 — — Porter.

The session now moved to an election of officers for the present year.

* The secretary has been informed, since the synodical session, that he was prevented of coming to Synod by high waters in his way.

† Also that he was prevented by sickness.

On motion resolved, that Revd. *P. L. Herman*, as president, and *George Kemp*, as treasurer, continue in office for one year more, and that *John C. Guldin* be secretary of the present session.

On motion and resolution, the Constitution of the Synod was read; and immediately thereupon the proceedings of the last session of Synod.

Each minister, individually, was now called up from the chair, to render an account of the state of his congregations and of his ministerial transactions. From the account given verbatim by the ministers and the written testimonies presented by the elders of the various congregations, it appears that the state of the church, generally, is prosperous and that the bretheren belonging to this connection, distinguish themselves through sincere and zealous activity.

The following letters were read before this session.

1. One from the honorable vestry of the reformed congregation in New-York, wherein they represent the happy state of their congregation, and in which they also manifest that that congregation is fully satisfied with their minister, Revd. G. Mills. Synod was pleased to hear such, and implores in their behalf the divine benediction for the continuance of the same.

2. One from brother Althaus, in which he avows his love and regard to this Synod, wishes the Lords blessing to the same, and wishes to have his absence from Synod excused, by reason of the great distance he has to come.

Excused.

3. One from the honorable vestry of the congregations in and roundabout Carlisle, now under the care of Revd. J. S. Ebaugh, in which they express their desire of becoming connected with this Synod.

4. One of John T. Clark, asking excuse for not attending to Synod and desiring to have his licence renewed.

Excused.

5. Another was presented to Synod, written by a Mr. Jacob Hoffman, in which he requests of this body to follow the resolutions of the Revd. Dutch Reformed Synod, which resolutions, in essence, are, "To receive no one into the community of the church, who has not, ex animo, renounced the order of Freemasonry and to suspend all members, elders, deacons, ministers &c. who have not or will not renounce said order."

6. Another on the same subject, containing a similar request, signed by the honorable vestry of a congregation in Mifflin county.

Brother Shults reported, "that he has accepted of an appointment as City Missionary in Philadelphia." From his report it is apparent that he is rendering himself a very useful minister of the gospel, a blessing in the church of Christ in his present province of action.

Application was made to Synod to be examined and licensed by a Mr. F. L. Daubert, student of divinity from Germany, presenting favourable recommendations from the honourable vestry of the Reformed congregation in Race street, Philadelphia.

Another application of the same nature was made by a Mr. Henry Miller, who acquired a theological education in Philadelphia.

Resolved, that the request of Revd. J. S. Ebaugh and his congregations be referred to a committee; the following brethren compose this committee

C. G. Herrman,
J. S. Dubs,
F. E. Von der Sloot,
T. H. Leinbach,
John Wilson, Esq.
William Hottenstein.

The application of Mr. Daubert was also committed to this committee.

The following persons were proposed and received by Synod as a committee to inquire whether Mr. Miller should be admitted as a candidate for examination and licensure.

C. W. Shults,
F. W. Von der Sloom,
S. Seibert,
George Miller,
John C. Guldin.

The brethren A. L. Herman, S. Seibert, William Smidmer, Benjamin Haberstich and Jacob Schwobe were appointed a committee to adjust the accounts of the treasurer.

The committee, appointed by last years session, to have the Constitution of Synod printed, reported through brother Bibighaus, that this was done.

H. Bibighaus,
F. L. Herman,
J. C. Guldin.

The session was closed with singing and prayer.

Afternoon 2 o'clock.

Singing and praying opened the second session.

The committee appointed to examine, during the recess of Synod, Mr. L. C. B. Herman, reported, that they examined him in the learned languages and other branches of theology, in which he gave them such satisfaction that they granted him licensure.

J. C. Guldin,
T. H. Leinbach,
J. S. Dubs.

The committee, appointed to take the request of the congregations in and about Carlisle and of their pastor, Revd. J. C. Ebaugh, into consideration, reported, "that they,

having duly considered all circumstances and particulars, most cheerfully and gladly reecommend them to be received into this connection." Agreed to.

C. G. Herman,
J. S. Dubs,
F. E. Von der Slood,
T. H. Leinbach,
John Wilson, Esq.
William Hottenstein.

Resolved, that the president and secretary of Synod inform the congregations of Revd. Ebaugh of our proceedings with respect to themselves, their pastor and of their reception into our connection.

The committee to which Mr. Daubert's application was referred, reported, "that they, in consequence of his good recommendations, recommend him to Synod as a candidate for examination."

C. G. Herman,
J. S. Dubs,
F. E. Von der Slood,
T. H. Leinbach,
John Wilson, Esq.
Willam Hottenstein.

Report approved.

On motion resolved, that a committee be appointed to examine Mr. Daubert with regard to his theological acquirements. The following brethren constitute this committee.

John S. Ebaugh,
T. H. Leinbach,
J. S. Dubs,
J. C. Guldin.

The committee on Mr. Miller's application, reported, that they found his recommendations so that they wish to see him examined."

C. W. Shults,
F. W. Von der Slood,
S. Seibert,
G. Miller,
J. C. Guldin.

Report approved.

Resolved, that a committee be appointed to examine Mr. Miller; this committee is composed of the brethren,

C. W. Wack,
H. Bibighaus,
C. G. Herman.

Resolved, that the licence of Revd. Porter be renewed.

On motion that the title of this Synod be altered, the question being maturely considered, the following resolution was finally and unanimously adopted: Whereas this Synod has extended itself beyond the boundaries of Pennsylvania and whereas this Synod is, in reality, the Old Synod, as it was at the time of its origin in the United States, be it resolved, that the title of this Free and Independent Synod shall henceforth be: "*The Synod of the German Reformed Church of Pennsylvania and adjacent States.*"

Resolved, that Revd. Ebaugh, in accordance with the last resolution, be requested to have the Seal* of the Synod altered.

Resolved that the letters on Masonry, addressed to Synod, be referred to a committee; the following brethren were nominated for the same.

C. W. Wack,
F. E. Von der Sloom,
A. L. Herman,
J. Blaus,
J. Seibert.

A letter from brother Berky, in which he pleads sickness in his family as an excuse for his absence, gives a report of his congregations, from which it is apparent that he discharges the duties incumbent on an ambassador of Christ.

His absence excused.

* The device adopted for the seal of Synod is "a flying Eagle, with the Gospel Trumpet and the Olivebranch of Peace."

The following brethren were nominated a committee to examine the Diaries of the candidates.

H. Bibighaus,
A. L. Herman.

Resolved, that the session adjourn for this afternoon. The love and harmony in which, thus far, all business were transacted, seemed to have prepared all hearts to fervent devotion, while the session was closed with singing and prayer.

This evening Revd. Ebaugh preached in the English language, from 1 Cor. 1. 22, 23, 24.

Tuesday morning, 8 o'clock.

The brethren assembled in the church and prepared for business through singing and prayer.

Resolved, that Revd. Schaeffer, who has been licenced 3 years, and who presented a call from congregations, be ordained this forenoon after divine service; and that the following brethren constitute a committee for that transaction.

F. L. Herman,
J. S. Dubs,
C. G. Herman,
F. E. Von der Sloom,
J. S. Ebaugh,
J. C. Guldin.

Resolved that brother C. G. Herman preach the ordination sermon.

The committee to examine Mr. Daubert, reported, "that they examined him in the various branches of theology, and that they found him satisfactory in the same, as well as in his views of the doctrines of salvation and in

his experience of true godliness, and therefore recommend him to Synod for licensure."

Accepted.

John S. Ebaugh,
J. S. Dubs,
T. H. Leinbach,
J. C. Guldin.

The brethren on the committee to examine Mr. Miller reported, "that he did not offer himself for examination in the learned languages, but that they found him proficient in all other branches of theology and accordingly recommend him for licensure.

C. W. Wack,
H. Bibighaus,
C. G. Herman.

Report approved.

The committee to which were referred the several letters on Masonry, read this report, which was agreed upon by Synod: "we, the committee appointed to investigate the documents communicated to Synod on the subject of Masonry, deem it inexpedient for Synod to give it their further attention, it being foreign to the nature and design of an ecclesiastical body."

C. W. Wack,
F. E. Von der Sloot,
A. L. Herman,
Jacob Blaus,
Jacob Seibert.

Resolved, that it be left to the officers of Synod to proceed at option with regard to the licence of Revd. J. T. Clark:

Resolved, that the secretary of Synod be instructed to transmit our proceedings to all Synods that entertain friendly feelings towards us.

Brother Shults reported, that there was a vacant congregation in Cohensy in New Jersey, and that it was his desire that a missionary might be sent to the same.

Resolved, that Mr. Shults visit that congregation as missionary.

Resolved, that all congregations under the pastoral care of the brethren of this connection and their geographical situation be specified in our minutes.

Resolved, that in future each minister shall annually present a written account to Synod of the state of religion in his congregations.

Resolved, that the session close for this morning.

Singing and praying closed it.

At 10 o'clock the brethren and a numerous multitude assembled for divine service in the house of God, upon which occasion Revd. C. G. Herman delivered a sermon from 1 John 4. 1, 2, 3. After service the committee proceeded to the ordination of Revd. Schæfer. On this solemn scene all hearts were moved and many were in tears while the ministers and the candidate, who had just avowed faithfulness in his holy function to the Lord of the Church, and who under the imposition of hands, received the divine benediction, knelt in the presence of the Most High, importuning in prayer. Strengthened they arose and presented their hands to the new-ordained brother.

Tuesday afternoon, 2 o'clock.

Divine service opened the session.

The committee, appointed to test the diaries of the candidates, reported, "That they found them perfectly agreeable to the spirit and genius of the Gospel."

Revd. brother Hertz, who visited this session, was received, upon motion, as an advisory member.

Resolved, that 400 German and 200 English copies of our proceedings be printed.

Resolved, that 50 German and 50 English Ordination Diplomata and the same number of Candidate Licences be printed.

The following places were offered for the session of Synod of next year : Cootstown, in Berks, Shaferstown, in Lebanon, Hummelstown, in Dauphin, Mechanicsburg, in Cumberland county. After the counting of votes it appeared that Mechanicsburg had a majority.

Resolved that the next session of Synod be held at the last above mentioned place, on the first Sabbath in September, 1832.

Resolved, that this evening, after divine service, our thankfulness to the congregation and citizens of Reamstown and its vicinity be publickly manifested, for the love and friendly accommodation shown us during our stay with them.

Once more all bretheren joined in singing and prayer before God, aspiring in gratitude to Him, the source of infinite bounty, for the love & harmony which prevailed from heart to heart among them, during the transactions of their concerns.

With deepest impressions of piety and fervour of devotion, they implored the further blessing of the great Sovereign of the Church upon his kingdom.

Resolved, that Synod adjourn for the present year.

This evening Revd. Daubert preached from 1 Cor. 2. 2:

Blessed Saviour ! Author and Preserver of the christian church ! extend thy blessing to every part of thy kingdom here below ; let the number of thy followers be increased, in unity of faith and piety of life. May love and harmony flow from heart to heart, and party names sink into oblivion. Let those who are ordained to preach repentance and remission of sins, be endued with wisdom from on high, give them a new Spirit, and make them good ministers of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the works of faith, and good doctrine. Continue to us, and our posterity civil

and religious liberty to the remotest ages ; and while thy mercy preserves us from the tyranny and despotism of the world, may we seek thy Spirit, that sin may not have dominion over us, "Where thy Spirit is, there is liberty." Amen.

That the above is a correct, though not literal translation from the German proceedings of Synod, attests

JOHN C. GULDIN, *p. t. Secretary.*



MINISTERIAL TRANSACTIONS		Congregats.	Baptized	Confirmed	Communic.	Deaths	Schools
Names of MINISTERS.	Names & places of congregs						
F. L. Herman	Swamp in New - Hanover, Pottstown* in Pottsgrove township, Montgomery co. Boyer's in Colebrookdale, Hill in Earl, Amity in Amity township, Berks county	5	90	70	527	27	5
C. G. Herman	Cootstown,* Delong & Zion in Maxatawny, Hereford in Hereford, Peters in Richmond, Dunkels in Greenwich, and Friedens in Oley township, all in Berks co.	7	271	80	689	28	11
J. C. Guldin	Vincent* in Vincent, Nyce in East - Nantmeal, Braunschachs in Coventry township, Chester county; Trapp in Upper - Providence, Montgomery county; Allegheny in Cumru, Berks county, and Centre in Caernarvon, Lancaster county	6	90	35	298	26	1
J. S. Dubs	Allentown,* Egypt, Jordan, Union, all in Lehigh co.	4	120	80	480	25	—
H. Bibighaus	Salems in Philadelphia,* & Frankfort in Frankfort	2	100	23	451	50	1
T. H. Leinbach	Tulpehoccon near Meyers-town,* Shæferstown and St. Jacobs in Lebanon county, Reamstown and Swamp in Lancaster county; Northkill in Berks county	6	186	69	575	24	7
A. L. Herman	All near Reading,* in Berks county	8	115	39	489	40	4
J. Steely	Names of congregations not given	6	62	25	266	37	6

Those places marked with a * are places of the most convenient Post-Office.

MINISTERIAL TRANSACTIONS		Congregats	Baptized	Confirmed	Communic.	Deaths	Schools
Names of MINISTERS	Names & places of congregs						
R. Fisher	No report	—	—	—	—	—	—
D. Tobias	No report	—	—	—	—	—	—
J. Althaus	In Armstrong county	4	40	9	102	5	3
R. T. Herman		3	30	15	16	25	1
A. Shæfer	In Berks county	1	23	—	—	6	—
A. Berky	Lewistown* in Mifflin co.	4	23	17	93	3	6
S. Seiber	Middletown,* Humelstown and Hill in Dauphin county; Bindnagles in Lebanon co. Lewistown and Mash	—	—	—	—	—	—
C. W. Shults	in York county	6	76	32	152	84	4
	City Missionary in a Kensington* district	—	12	—	—	—	—
G. Mills	New-York*	1	—	—	—	—	—
G. Eppert	No report	—	—	—	—	—	—
F. E. V. d. Sloat	Mechanicksburg,* Churchtown, Petersburg, Feilys and Berns in Cumberland	5	111	11	153	33	7
F. W. V. d. Sloat	Stahlys in York county	1	19	—	50	10	—
E. W. Wack		1	10	3	53	12	1
W. Smidmer	No report	—	—	—	—	—	—
J. S. Ebaugh	Zions in Carlisle,* Salems in Frankfort township, Sulpher Springs in North-Middletown, Egis Springs in South-Middleton township, Cumberland county	4	80	11	400	25	6
L. C. B. Herman		—	7	—	—	9	—
F. L. Daubert	No report	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Miller	No report	—	—	—	—	—	—